

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

أنا مصري، طبعا أنا درست في المدرسة الجزويت، درست جزويت بال "The College of the Holy Family" ولغاية ثانويه عامة بتبقنا عندنا، وبعد كه طبعا رحنا الجامعة الأمريكية، ودرست mass communication وطبعا الدراسة كلها بالإنجليزي، في الجزويت الدراسة كلها طبعا عندنا اللغة الأولى الفرنسي، فبالنالي أنا بتكلم فرنساوي وبتكلم انجليزي. فبعد ما اتخرجت من الجامعة الأمريكية، واشتغلت شويه في السياحة، يعني السياحة برضوا شغل الواحد بيبقى شاب عايز يتعرف على ناس، عايز يعمل فلوس أسرع، بيتعرف على بنات جديد. وطبعا ما بعد كده، اشتغلت مع والدي، باباي يعني، بابا عندو مكتبه، مكتبه قديمه وشويه مشهوره، اسمها مكتبة شواربي، فضطريت اشتغل معاه بالشغلانه دي. بنوزع ادوات كتابيه، بنشتغل مع البنوك، مع الشركات، السفرات، سفارة فرنسا، سفارة امريكا، سفارة المانيا. يعني اهو الشغل كده، وبنجيب شوية حاجات بنستوردها من بره، بناخذ شغلانه هنا. يعني الماركت كويس والشغل تجاره، في مصر يعني.

الصوت: آيه رأيك في الإقتصاد بمصر دلوقتني؟

الرجل: والله الإقتصاد بمصر بتهيألي هو booming يعني. يعني عندنا مشاريع كتر بتفتتح، عندنا الوزارة الحالية برضوا متفتحة، بتفتح آفاق كثيرة، بتحاول تساعد الشركات الأجنبية أو تشدها بطرق يعني متقدمة شوية أنها بتسهلها الأمور غير الأول، عشان بتلاقي عندنا في شركات أجنبية فتحت كثير في الوقت الحالي، في انفتاح، تلاقي عندنا سعر العملات ثابت، أو ممكن يكون نازل. عندنا سعر الدولار مثلا ثابت بقالوا سبع سنين ثمن سنين، بعد ما كانوا عوموه. اليروم بالمثل. يعني العملات الأجنبية في ثبات، فدا بيدل إني الإقتصاد تبعنا في نمو يعني.

English translation:

Man voice: I am Egyptian. Of course, I studied at the Jesuit school,¹ the Jesuit school that is The College of the Holy Family, until the high school graduation exam, which is how it works for us. And after that, of course, I went to the American University in Cairo, and I studied Mass Communication, and, of course, all of the studies were in English. The first language of studies with the Jesuits was, of course, French. As a result, I speak French and English.

After I graduated from the American University in Cairo, I worked in tourism for a bit, I mean tourism is a field ... when one is young he wants to meet people, he wants to make money more easily, he meets new girls [laughing], and naturally, after this, I worked with my father, my dad. My father has a bookstore, an old and quite famous bookstore; its name is The Shawarby Bookstore. So I had to work with him in this job; we distribute office materials ... we work with banks, with companies, embassies, the embassy of France, the embassy of the United States, the embassy of Germany. I mean, this is how work goes. And we bring a few things that we import from abroad; we take things from here -- I mean, the market is also good, the trade market, in Egypt, I mean.

Woman voice: What is your opinion of the economy of Egypt now?

¹ Christian schools, particularly French-language schools, are very common in Egypt. They have been in the country for more than a hundred years, have very strong reputations, and attract the middle-class and elite, both Christian and Muslim.

Man voice: Really, I believe the economy in Egypt is booming. I mean, we have a lot of projects that are opening; we also have the current ministry, which is very open and is opening a lot of branches. It tries to help foreign companies or to attract them in developed ways, by making it easy for companies to settle here, which was not the case at the beginning. As a result, you find that a lot of foreign companies have opened at this time.

Woman voice: There is an opening up....²

Man: Yes, there is an opening up, exactly. You find that the currency rates in our country are stable, or it [the rate] can be going down; for example the dollar rate has been stable for after or eight years, after they supported it. Same with the euro. I mean, there is stability for foreign currency rates, so this shows that our economy is in growth.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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² Implied: to international economy.